

REMARKS

Independent claims 2 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Minamino et al. (hereafter "Minamino") (US 6,657,929). Applicant traverses this rejection.

We believe that Minamino does not disclose a clock signal generating device comprising, among other features, a hold signal generator for generating a first hold signal that holds the frequency of the oscillation signal of the PLL circuit during a first period in accordance with a detection, and a second hold signal that holds the frequency of the oscillation signal of the PLL circuit during a second period in accordance with the detection, which differs from the first period, and a signal selector, connected to the hold signal generator, for providing a PLL circuit with either one of the first and second hold signals, as recited in independent claim 2.

We further believe that Minamino does not disclose a clock generating device comprising, among other features, a monitor, connected to the PLL circuit, for monitoring a wobble signal, wherein the monitor generates a first hold signal that holds the frequency of the oscillation signal of the PLL circuit during a first period between a first timing and a second timing, at which the cycle of the wobble signal changes, and a second hold signal that holds the frequency of the oscillation signal of the PLL circuit during a second period, which is longer than the first period of the first hold signal measured from the first timing, and a signal selector, connected to the monitor, for providing one of the first and second hold signals to the PLL circuit, as recited in independent claim 12.

Instead, Minamino discloses a wobble PLL detection circuit 15b that generates a wobble PLL hold signal or a wobble usable 3 signal based on the comparison between a time period t1 (or a time period t2) and a low level period of an output clock of the wobble PLL circuit 14. The wobble PLL hold signal is provided to the wobble PLL circuit 14 (see column 17, line 10 of Minamino), whereas the wobble usable 3 signal is provided to a formatter 8. In other words, the wobble PLL hold signal is used to control the wobble PLL circuit 14, and the wobble usable 3 signal is used to control the formatter

8 but not used to control the wobble PLL circuit 14. Thus, Minamino does not disclose a signal selector for providing the wobble PLL circuit 14 with either one of the wobble PLL hold signal and the wobble usable 3 signals (first and second hold signals). Accordingly, we believe that the inventions recited in independent claims 2 and 12 are not obvious in view of Minamino. Because claims 3-6 depend from independent claim 2, we believe that these dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons that claim 2 is patentable.

Claims 7-10 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Minamino in view of Katoh (US 6,088,311). Applicant traverses this rejection.

Since neither Minamino nor Katoh discloses the above feature of the present invention and claims 7-10 indirectly depend from claim 2 and claim 13 directly depends from claim 12, those claims are patentable for at least the same reasons that claims 2 and 12 are patentable.

Conclusion

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

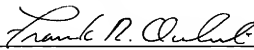
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Respectfully submitted,

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